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BREEZE HILL NEWS

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Leucothoe catesbaei

BREEZE HILL NEWS is sent without cost and without obligation to those who find it useful and ask us to continue to send it. It is published approximately six times a year in the interest of the J. HORACE MCFARLAND COMPANY and the MCFARLAND PUBLICITY SERVICE, at the Mount Pleasant Press, in Harrisburg, Pa.

The purpose of BREEZE HILL NEWS is to demonstrate how its publishers are prepared to serve the horticultural trade by growing, testing, blooming, photographing, and faithfully recording a large and changing succession of roses, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees at Breeze Hill Gardens. Those records, those pictures, and the suggestive knowledge upon which recommendations can be made, are put back of the horticultural selling service of the Mount Pleasant Press by intelligent writing, illustrating, and printing, both in black and color.

Questions about plants, pictures, sales promotion, and printing are cheerfully answered without obligation on either side. Visitors are welcomed at the Mount Pleasant Press in Harrisburg (at the corner of Mulberry and Crescent streets, ten minutes' walk from the Pennsylvania Railroad station) and at Breeze Hill Gardens (2101 Bellevue Road, Harrisburg). Contact is maintained at the Mount Pleasant Press with all the English-speaking garden world, and, to some extent, with garden lovers who use other languages.

On request to Box 687, Harrisburg, Pa., the current Breeze Hill Finding-List, which gives an idea of the scope of the plant-trials undertaken at any particular time, will be provided. Suggestions for further trials are welcomed. It is the desire of the publishers to make the world's best in plant-life available to American gardens, homes, parks, and pleasure-grounds. It is likewise the established purpose, manifested over forty years of increasing business, to make the selling service of the Mount Pleasant Press effective for worthy items that should be used in American gardens.

BEGINNING THE SEASON EARLIER

THE cost of maintaining a good garden is continuous all the growing season, and indeed pretty much throughout the whole year. Care is indeed continuous, in any effective garden. For most people bloom is the reward for this care, for not many get their garden satisfactions only in the changing colors of the foliage, in the twig effects against the winter sky, or in the snow magic which gives a white bloom when it falls.

Whatever be the fad of the gardener, or his specialty, he will admit that bloom over a considerable period is desirable. To focus fifty-one weeks of consideration and care on not much more than a week or two of iris maturity, or peony perfection, does seem rather futile. The gorgeous splash of three weeks of hardy climber bloom in the roses, and the quick

beauty of the species and shrub roses, certainly leaves something to be desired to spread the display over a longer season of satisfaction, in addition to the often scanty recurrence in the fall of flowers on the Hybrid Teas.

For more than a score of years it has been the aim at Breeze Hill, as collections have been extended, to get longer bloom periods both earlier and later, as well as to introduce to notice beautiful things not obvious in the ordinary nursery catalogue. We have valued the January blooms of *Hamamelis vernalis*, and rejoiced at the earliest crocus, snowdrops, and scillas, of which charming bulbs many better species might be made available to American garden lovers if these garden lovers knew of them and demanded them.

The place of the forsythia in the spring landscape is perhaps a little too prominent, but it can be sweetened, so to speak, by choosing the right varieties, and particularly by beginning earlier. *Forsythia ovata* gives a full ten days of earliness before the first blooms appear on the *Intermedia* group. (It seems hard to understand why any nurseryman will continue to propagate *F. viridissima* when he can get so much better results from the several *Intermedia* hybrids in color, flower, form, and bloom continuity.)

To many unfortunate garden folks, *Spiræa vanhouttei* is the only member of the spirea family. It is a grand good member, but it can be preceded by *S. thunbergi*, and followed by *S. trichocarpa* and *S. henryi*, still leaving room for variation in form and habit, and slightly in color, in the midseason, and for the summer bloom of the pink-flowered sorts.

Deutzias can be stretched for many weeks beyond the common kinds, and there are exquisitely lovely pink forms, not ruggedly hardy all the time but self-renewing after frost damage, which are really needed.

The mockoranges—a detestable “common name” for the *Philadelphuses*—have too long been confined to *Philadelphus coronarius* and the very lovely *Virginal*. Yet this family will

begin two weeks earlier in *P. schrenki jacki*, which, while not notably conspicuous, is nevertheless very pleasing through its introduction of the *Philadelphus* season. Then this superb family, by no means yet appreciated as of value by the nurserymen who ought to provide larger resources for our gardens, can be extended materially by at least a dozen or twenty French hybrids, to say nothing of some really valuable species. *P. pubescens* is going to take us into a cream-colored variety of pleasing character. *P. purpurascens* gives us, late in the season, the scent of sweet peas, and it will bloom about the same time as *Belle Etoile*, one of the *Lemoine* hybrids which has the odor of the gardenia without the expense of that aristocratic bloom, carrying at the same time a pleasing purple spot at the base of each petal. *Banniere* makes a grand bush, far more pleasing in habit than *Virginal*, and *Conquete* is nearly as good in that way. *Avalanche* is properly named, while *Amalthee* has proved to provide a startling mass of lovely flowers.

Indeed, any sizable garden may well have in its borders the same long-season range of lovely and distinct *Philadelphuses* that makes a trip to the Arnold Arboretum a seasonable pleasure.

When we get into roses, the opportunity for stretching the season—not yet availed of by rose nurserymen to any serious extent—is even greater. The rose is a shrub of high value, as well as the loveliest garden flower that grows. *Rosa ecæ*, a superb bush finer than any *spirea* or *deutzia* and ruggedly self-maintaining, sometimes shows flowers in late April, and always in early May. It is followed promptly by the equally graceful, deeper colored *Hugonis*, and, if a mature plant is once established, by *R. xanthina*, which as it bloomed at Breeze Hill this year discounted any of the *Noisette* hybrids which make the traveler envy those who see the *Noisette* roses of Los Angeles.

Then before the Hybrid Teas begin to splash, the yet unintroduced Spanish-born *Moyesi* hybrid, *Nevada*, opens

its immense single, snowy flowers. It has not faded before another grand bush rose, keeping rather lower in height, begins to be exceedingly effective. It is Buisson d'Or, and is literally a bush of gold.

Of course, the Rugosa hybrids come along well before the Hybrid Tea and Hybrid Perpetual show, and just about the time when that great old ruggedly hardy American-born Harison's Yellow also puts a crimp into the California possibilities. These Rugosa hybrids are now supplemented by Agnes, which has been, this year, a dream of amber beauty, and Vanguard, just as much of a dream, and deeper in its yellow and orange tendency. Dr. Eckener has unique size, color, and quality, and is very differently beautiful.

Conrad Ferdinand Meyer has long been known, but not used as it should be, in the back of the shrubbery along with its blood sister, Nova Zembla. The newer, bright, and very fragrant Sarah Van Fleet comes into the picture and continues long. Of course, F. J. Grootendorst, with its red carnations in a Rugosa setting, and with its willingness to do anything, any time, anywhere that a rose-lover can want, is "among those present." To me, the dainty little Schneezweg, on a bush that is anything but dainty, adds the necessary white accent to this early-season, hard-boiled, self-maintaining rose background.

It is not more than fair to mention that the Hardy Climber season seems to open with Le Reve, in its clear yellow, and with Mme. Sancy de Parabere, in a somewhat dubious but yet pleasing pink. After this the deluge of Hardy Climbers checks right into the ordinary catalogue, and it isn't necessary here to give information about them.

Now all this is hopefully written in the feeling that it would be profitable for the gardener if the nurseryman himself may profit by thus extending the season. He can, if he will try to do it, and we at Breeze Hill will be glad to help.

J. H. McF.

FROM THE BREEZE HILL NOTEBOOKS

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YELLOW ROSES

Of all yellow climbing roses, the tall-growing sport of the famous Talisman is the most spectacular. At Breeze Hill it was hardy enough to withstand the severe winter of 1933-34 without too much damage. The color is vivid orange and yellow, more uniform and more stable than the dwarf variety. It blooms moderately in late summer and autumn.

Buisson d'Or, a hybrid of Mme. Edouard Herriot \times Harison's Yellow put out in France in 1928 by Barbier, is a





Buisson d'Or

stunning yellow-flowered shrub, with larger and more richly colored flowers than either the Persian or Harison's Yellow. It is quite hardy at Breeze Hill.

DORONICUMS

Not always easy to have at Breeze Hill, the *Doronicums* flowered beautifully this year. *D. pardalianches*, recently introduced, is illustrated here, but it does not seem to be





any improvement on *D. caucasicum*, pictured above. It blooms later and has smaller flowers in bunches, but the aspect of the plant is not particularly attractive. Perhaps it should not be judged until the plants become better established.



SILENE BONNETTI

The lone specimen plant whose picture adorns this page was raised from seed sent to us by a friend on Vancouver Island. We know nothing of the history of the species, or where it is native, but it is a lovely brilliant pink cushion of flowers, a foot across and eight inches high, for many weeks in spring. It grows easily and quickly from seed, but we lost all our plants but one through an unfortunate accident. We kept the survivor in the coldframe over winter, so we cannot be sure that the species is entirely hardy until this year's seedlings have gone through the coming winter.

TRILLIUM SP?

From Warren S. Manning, noted landscape architect of Boston, came this interesting variation of *Trillium sessile*. The flowers are yellowish green—not as yellow as the similar *T. sessile luteum*—but its outstanding merit is the metallic-like silvery blotching scattered erratically over its handsome foliage. It grows more than a foot high, with leaves nearly six inches across, in deep leafmold and dense shade. It is a treasure on the place but it does not multiply as other *Trilliums* do here.





ALL-AMERICA SEED TRIALS

Breeze Hill's service to the seed trade includes the trials of the new annuals. Here is the bed of four varieties of new Stocks, growing vigorously for the 1935 contest. They will all be studied, and have their pictures taken to be ready for the seedsmen who want to sell them.